

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE S&T SUBCOMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: S&T SUBCOMMITTEE ESSENTIALLY CONCLUDED GENERAL DEBATE NOON APRIL 23, WITH MOST DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING US, REVIEWING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AND SPEAKING ONLY GENERALLY TO AGENDA. DURING EARLY DEBATE ON REMOTE SENSING ITEM, US DEL CORRECTED ERROR IN SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION ON AVAILABILITY OF US DATA AND STRESSED PRACTICAL VALUE AND REGIONAL CENTER POTENTIAL OF 5 FOREIGN NATIONAL GROUND STATIONS WHICH ARE OBLIGATED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH NASA TO SERVE REGIONAL NEEDS. SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THESE STATIONS AS POTENTIAL NUCLEI FOR REGIONAL CENTERS. IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED SPACE CONFERENCE, UK AND EGYPT SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF FOLDING IT INTO UN CONFERENCE ON APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT.

2. S&T SUBCOMMITTEE CONCLUDED GENERAL DEBATE NOON APRIL 23 EXCEPT FOR FEW STRAGGLERS. MOST PARTICIPATNS CONFINED THEMSELVES TO SHORT REVIEWS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DEFERRED DETAILED COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS UNTIL SPECIFIC SUBJECTS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE. USSR (GAZENKO) SPOKE FIRST, REPORTING AT SOME LENGTH ON SOVIET NATIONAL
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PROGRAM BUT AVOIDING ANY SUBSTANTIVE REFERENCE TO AGENDA.

US (FRUTKIN) OPENED WITH TRIBUTE TO LATE ACADEMICIAN
BLAGONRAVOV, CONGRATULATED INDIANS ON INDIAN SATELLITE
LAUNCHED BY SOVIETS, AND REVIEWED HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION DURING PAST YEAR WITH STRESS ON REMOTE SENSING.
IN COMMENTING ON AGENDA, US COMMENDED SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
APPARENTLY PRAGMATIC, FACTUAL APPROACH; SECRETARIAT STUDIES
WERE HELPFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THAT END BUT REPLIES TO
QUESTIONNAIRE ON SPACE CONFERENCE AND APPLICATIONS PROGRAM
WERE FEW AND OFTEN LACKING FACTUAL CONTENT.

3. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 4 (REMOTE SENSING) BEGAN
APRIL 22 IN INTERVALS BETWEEN CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL DEBATE.
US (FRUTKIN) SPOKE THIS MORNING:

A) ACKNOWLEDGED REMARKS APPRECIATING AVAILABILITY OF US
SATELLITES.

B) ASKED CORRECTION OF A/AC 105/140 PG. 6 WHICH OPINED
THAT US WOULD "LIKELY" MAKE AVAILABLE ONLY NON-US DATA.

C) ON COST-EFFECTIVENESS, RECOGNIZED STUDIES NOT CONCLUSIVE
BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN POSITIVE CHARACTER OF SATELLITE
REMOTE SENSING, NOTED REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL CASES OF BENEFIT,
AND NOTED THAT US NOT COMMITTED TO CONTINUITY BEYOND
LANDSAT C ALTHOUGH FELT STRONG PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN SUCH
CONTINUITY.

D) RE INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER, EXPRESSED
VIEW THAT A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS (FAO, UNDP, WORLD BANK,
ETC.) USING ERS DATA AND MAKING POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.
FELT THIS MIGHT CONTINUE FOR TIME BEING WITHOUT NECESSITY
TO SELECT SINGLE LEAD ORGANIZATION AND WITHOUT NEED TO
FUND OTHER THAN THROUGH OPERATING BUDGETS THESE ORGANIZATIONS.
QUESTIONED VALUE OF BROWSE FACILITIES IN VIEW NEGATIVE
EXPERIENCE OSAD LIBRARY. FELT BEST LOCATION FOR PRACTICAL
ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION WOULD BE AT LEAST DOWN TO REGIONAL
LEVEL.

E) RE REGIONAL CENTERS, EMPHASIZED PRACTICAL VALUE
OF BILATERAL STATION AGREEMENTS NOW COMMITTED BY 5
STATES WHICH, BECAUSE THEY ARE OBLIGATED TO SERVE REGIONAL
DATA NEEDS, COULD SERVE AS POWERFUL STEPS TOWARD REGIONAL
CENTERS (WHICH VERY WEAK WITHOUT STATION TIE). EXPLAINED
STATION COVERAGE OF AFRICA AS ILLUSTRATION. COMMENDED
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EXISTING AND PLANNED STATIONS TO NEIGHBORING STATES FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND URGED OTHER (NON-
COVERED) STATES CONSIDER THEIR REGIONAL INTEREST IN NEW
STATIONS. SAID NASA HAPPY MAKE EXISTING AND APPROVED
SATELLITES AVAILABLE THIS PURPOSE.

4. EARLY DEBATE ON REMOTE SENSING HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE,
WITH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (CANADA, FRG, SWEDEN, UK)

EMPHASING THE NEED FOR REGIONAL CENTERS AND RECOGNIZING THAT PRESENT NATIONAL CENTERS CAN FORM NUCLEI FOR REGIONAL CENTERS. INDIA (VELLODI) CAME OUT SUPPORTING THE US PRACTICAL APPROACH AND THRUST TOWARD REGIONAL CENTERS. (AFTER MEETING, VELLODI TOLD FRUTKIN THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INTERNAL DECISION TO PROCEED WITH A GROUND STATION, APPARENTLY WITH WORLD BANK FUNDING.)

5. DURING GENERAL DEBATE, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS URGED THAT CONFERENCE ON SPACE APPLICATIONS BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF CLEARLY ESTABLISHED NEED, RELATED MEETINGS, ETC. BOTH UK AND EGYPT SUGGESTED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDER ALTERNATE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING SPACE APPLICATIONS SECTION IN UN CONFERENCE ON APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT. UNLESS IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR AIMS FOR LATTER CONFERENCE, US DEL FINDS THIS APPROACH ATTRACTIVE, FOR IT SHOULD TEND TO LIMIT DEMANDS ON US TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND, WE SHOULD THINK, FRUSTRATE THOSE WHO MIGHT WISH SPACE CONFERENCE AS FORUM FOR PRESSING LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES.
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